



**Monomoy Regional School District - Monomoy Regional School Committee
Meeting Agenda for Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Monomoy Regional High School Library, 75 Oak Street, Harwich, MA 02645**

This meeting will be broadcast to Channel 22 as well as live-streamed/recorded to the [MRSC YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)

Members present: Meredith Henderson, Brad Schiff, Jackie Zibrat-Long, Ryan Edwards, Betty Gray, Brett Fortin

Members not present: Stephen Davol, Ryan Clarke

Administrators present: Dr. Scott Carpenter, Robin Millen, Michael MacMillan, Joy Jordan

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

Meredith Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- i. March 12, 2026 Regular Business Meeting

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long motioned to approve the March 12, 2026 Regular Business Meeting minutes, seconded by Brett Fortin.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

C. Public Comment: Speakers are limited to three minutes; additional time is at the discretion of the Chairperson

None

D. Reports and Discussions

- i. FY 27 Budget

VOTE REQUIRED

MRSD Business Manager, Michael MacMillan, presented the School Committee with updates on the FY27 budget since the last meeting.

FY27 Draft Budget	\$51,735,982
FY27 Draft Assessment to the Town of Harwich	\$33,104,137
FY27 Draft Assessment to the Town of Chatham	\$11,737,053

The budget by Major Account is provided below. Any subsequent change to Major Account budgets requires the approval of the School Committee.

Major Account	Budget
Operations and Maintenance	\$ 4,706,103
Acquisition, Improvement and Replacement of Fixed Assets	\$ 240,000
Administration	\$ 1,300,446
Benefits and Fixed Charges	\$ 10,716,114
Debt and Retirement Service	\$ 2,055,150
Instructional Leadership	\$ 3,038,083
Instructional Materials, Equipment and Technology	\$ 1,350,762
Guidance, Counseling and Testing	\$ 1,680,977
Other Teaching Services	\$ 4,211,842
Professional Development	\$ 481,631
Programs with Other School Districts	\$ 2,962,451
Pupil Services	\$ 4,149,338
Teachers	\$ 14,843,085
Grand Total	\$ 51,735,982

- The proposed budget for FY27 is \$51,735,982, with a 5.07% increase compared to last year.
- The budget process has faced challenges due to delays and administrative changes within Harwich.
- Changes made to the budget included a reduction of 10.5 positions in response to declining student enrollment (approximately 9-10% decrease over the last 2-3 years).
- Significant reductions include:
 - Elimination of central office vacancies and administrative positions due to low enrollment.
 - Increased use of excess and deficiency funds to mitigate costs, now set at \$900,000.
 - Adjustments in support services and special education staffing to align with current student needs.

Participant Insights and Concerns

- Members voiced concerns about maintaining level services amid budget constraints; future challenges are anticipated if enrollment continues to decline.
- There is a collective desire for increased engagement and earlier discussions with town administrations regarding budget implications, emphasizing the importance of transparency and planning.
- A proposal for a summer budget workshop was suggested to better understand finances and future needs.

Next Steps and Action Items

- Approval of the FY27 budget as presented.
- Continue discussions on the enrollment trend and its impact on future staffing and services.
- Plan for the proposed summer budget workshop to enhance collaboration with town officials.

MOTION: Brad Schiff motioned to approve the FY27 Budget and Assessments as presented to the School Committee, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

ii. Y Achievers College Field Trip

POTENTIAL VOTE

Christina Silva from the YMCA gave an overview of the college tour field trip for the MRHS Y Achievers members over April vacation.

Program Overview

- Y Achievers Program supports BIPOC and first-generation teens.
- Focus on career and college readiness through various activities:
 - Guest speakers share their professional journeys.
 - Development of skills: interviewing, advocacy, and cultural awareness.
 - Engagement in social cultural trips and discussions about different cultures.

Upcoming College Tour Details

- April College Tour scheduled from April 21st to April 25th.
 - Visits to a mix of colleges, including Sarah Lawrence College, Iona University, Morgan State University, Coppin State University, Montclair State University and Pratt Institute.
 - Objective: expose students to campus life and help them make informed college choices.
 - Planned activities include attending a Broadway show.
- Costs: Entire trip funded by the YMCA, with no expenses for students.

Due to the timing of the field trip, the School Committee members agreed to vote tonight.

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long motioned to approve the Y Achievers field trip, seconded by Brad Schiff.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

iii. 2026-2027 MRHS Trip to Italy

VOTE REQUIRED

MRRD School Committee member Ryan Edwards wanted to acknowledge the amazing field trips and opportunities that the students of Monomoy are able to participate in and hope that they continue for many years.

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long motioned to approve the 2026-2027 MRHS trip to Italy, seconded by Ryan Edwards.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

iv. MRHS Donation to Family Table Collaborative

VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long motioned to approve the MRHS donation to the Family Table collaborative, seconded by Ryan Edwards.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

v. Participation in School Choice Program FY27

VOTE REQUIRED

MRSD Superintendent, Scott Carpenter, shared information regarding the participation in the School Choice program for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Annual vote required by Massachusetts law for school districts.
- Allows families to enroll in different school districts if they choose.
- Students can stay in the district until graduation once enrolled.
- Recommendation: Continue as a receiving district for school choice.
- Focus on not 'stealing' students from each other.
- Operate on a free seat model, filling available seats without exceeding capacity.
 - Aim for 18 students per classroom, keeping space for local families.

MOTION: Ryan Edwards motioned to approve Monomoy Regional School District's participation in the School Choice program for FY27, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

vi. Surplus Materials

VOTE REQUIRED

MRSD Business Manager, Michael MacMillan, presented the surplus material details to the Committee. The athletic department has two cold plunge tubs. One tub is in good condition but is rarely used and the heating element is not functioning, it was donated to the district a few years ago. The department wishes to surplus the unused tub. The tub will be listed for sale on Municibid auction site.

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long motioned to approve the District's cold plunge tub as surplus equipment and authorize the School Business Manager to dispose of said property in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30B, seconded by Brett Fortin.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

vii. Pitney Bowes 5-year Contract Approval

VOTE REQUIRED

MRSD Business Manager, Michael MacMillan, provided information about the Pitney Bowes contract. We are seeking approval for a five-year lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for postage meters. The lease includes quarterly payments and is a continuation of existing equipment. The contract falls under state procurement guidelines.

MOTION: Brad Schiff motioned to authorize the District to enter into a five-year lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for five postage meters, seconded by Jackie Zibrat-Long.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

viii. Second Reading: 2026-2027 School Calendar, 2 Options

POTENTIAL VOTE

The School Committee continued discussion on the two options for the 2026-2027 school calendar: pre-Labor Day start and post-Labor Day start. Dr. Carpenter's recommendation is to adopt the pre-Labor Day start for next year which has already received support from the union. The previous concerns regarding contractual obligations and potential delays due to construction challenges at the middle school were the reason for the post-Labor day option. However, since our last meeting we have a new plan in place with Pearl Construction that will alleviate the loss of a week due to snow days this year by vacating the grade 5 wing after Juneteenth.

- Suggestions for future calendars include accommodating requests for specific days off and considering family dynamics during calendar planning.
 - Noted concerns about professional development days coinciding with long weekends.
- Explore incorporating student feedback in future calendar discussions.
- Continue discussions with the union regarding professional development scheduling.

MOTION: Ryan Edwards motioned to approve the 2026-2027 school calendar option one, before Labor Day start, seconded by Brett Fortin.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

E. Subcommittee, Representative, Liaison Reports

None

F. Superintendent's Report

i. Recognitions

It was a great season for the Monomoy Cheer team, who came in 7th at New Englands and earned a bid to nationals - well done!

Bravo to Monomoy Middle School for a great production of Fiddler on the Roof! Opening night was last night, they are currently performing right now, and you can catch one more show tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.

Congratulations to the Monomoy High Jazz Band, which brought home multiple gold medals in recent competitions. At the Massachusetts Association of Jazz Educators' Cape Coastal District Festival on March 3, the Jazz Band earned a gold medal, which qualified them for the State Finals on March 14, where they again earned the gold medal. Thanks to those impressive achievements, the musicians will next perform in the MAJE Gold Medal Showcase at the Hatch Shell in Boston on Sunday, May 3. The MRHS Jazz Band is led by retired Berklee College of Music professor Wayne Naus, who donates his time to work with an ever-growing group of students.

The students in the SHORE program have been working on their grant writing skills, and at the recent reopening of the Harwich Stop & Shop, the program received a donation of \$10,000 from Stop & Shop. These funds will support the Food Pantry at the high school operated by the SHORE students and comes after a similar donation from Stop & Shop last year.

The Harlem Wizards will return to Monomoy High tomorrow night for a fun family event - the game between the Wizards and a team of Monomoy faculty and staff superstars starts at 6:30 p.m.

H. Action Items -Vote Required

i. FY 27 Budget

MOTION: Brad Schiff motioned to approve the FY27 Budget and Assessments as presented to the School Committee, seconded by Betty Gray.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

ii. Y Achievers College Field Trip

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long motioned to approve the Y Achievers field trip, seconded by Brad Schiff.

UNANIMOUS: the motion passes

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I. **Presentation of the Warrants**

Presentation of the Warrants Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants were presented for MRSC member signatures.

J. **Adjournment**

MOTION: Jackie Zibrat-Long moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Betty Gray.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roberta Simmons
Recording Secretary